

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computing environment, a method comprising:
requesting access points for accessing distributed services that match specified criteria, the access points being requested from a service registry;
in response to the request, receiving a plurality of access points to a plurality of distributed services, [[that]] each of the plurality of distributed services matching the specified criteria, the access points being received from the provided by a service registry;
maintaining the plurality of access points in a cache;
receiving a request from a program to provide an access point; [[and]]
in response to the request, selecting a first access point from the cache and returning data corresponding to the first access point to the program, the first access point for accessing a first distributed service; [[and]]
the program using the data from the first access point to access the first distributed service; and
upon receiving information from the program that the first distributed service which is accessed using corresponding to the first access point has failed, selecting a second access point from the cache, the second access point for accessing a second distributed service, and returning data corresponding to the second access point to the program, and marking the first access point which is used to access corresponding to the failed distributed service such that the first access point is not subsequently selected from the cache.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the program provides the specified criteria, further comprising, receiving the specified criteria from the program, and sending a query to the service registry based on the criteria.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the service registry comprises a UDDI-based registry, and wherein sending the query to the service registry comprises sending an UDDI find request.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the plurality of access points is provided by the service registry in a list of URLs, and wherein returning data of an corresponding to the access point comprises returning data comprising a URL.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein returning data of an corresponding to the access point comprises returning a network address of a computer system.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein returning data of an corresponding to the access point comprises returning an identifier that can be resolved by some mechanism to an application or a particular instance of an application.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a request from a program for an access point comprises receiving a call at a defined interface.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein selecting the access point from the cache comprises maintaining the access points in an ordering, and choosing the access point based on the ordering.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising, basing the ordering on data received from the program.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising, basing the ordering on quality of service data.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein choosing the access point based on the ordering comprises choosing the access point that is first in the ordering of those access points that have not been marked as having failed.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein choosing the access point based on the ordering comprises choosing the access point that is next in the ordering.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising updating the service registry based on the failure data.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein outputting failure data comprises communicating with an error handling service.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising collecting failure information at the error handling service.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving information that a distributed service has failed comprises receiving a call at a defined interface.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium having stored computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

21. (Currently Amended) In a computer network in which a service registry provides access points to distributed services for use by client programs, a system comprising:

a storage that maintains a plurality of access points provided by the service registry; and

a manager component coupled to the client program, the manager component configured to perform the following:

receive a request from the client program for access points for accessing distributed services that match specified criteria, the request including the specified criteria;

in response to the request from the client program, request access points from the service registry, the access points for accessing distributed services that match the specified criteria;

receive from the service registry a plurality of access points to a plurality of distributed services, each of the plurality of distributed services matching the specified criteria;

store the plurality of access points in the storage;

receive a request for anyone of the plurality of stored access points from the client program;

in response to the request, select a first access point from the storage and provide the first access point to the client program, the first access point for accessing a first distributed service;

receive information from the client program that the first distributed service which is accessed using the first access point has failed; and

in response to the information, select a second access point from the storage and provide the second access point to the client program, the second access point for accessing a second distributed service, and mark the first access point as having failed such that the first access point is not subsequently provided in response to a request for an access point.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the manager component comprises an instantiated object.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the storage comprises a list maintained in storage allocated to the manager component object.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the client program hosts the manager component.

25. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the manager component is coupled to the client program via a defined interface that receives the request for the access point.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the service registry comprises a UDDI-based registry.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the service registry comprises a UDDI-based registry, wherein the query comprises a UDDI find request, and wherein each access point received in response to the query comprises a URL string.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the selection of the first and second access points is based on an ordering scheme.

31. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the manager component includes a defined interface for receiving failure-related calls related to a distributed service.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein at least one failure-related call includes information that indicates the failure.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31 further comprising an error handling service, the manager component providing failure information to the error handling service including information that indicates which service failed.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein the error handling service collects the failure information, and updates data associated with the service registry and corresponding to the service that failed.

35-39. (Canceled)